

Home Appliance NewsLine

An  Bulletin to Editors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 1992

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STRONG DECEMBER, FOURTH-QUARTER APPLIANCE SHIPMENTS

CUSHION 1991 DECLINE

CHICAGO -- Home appliance shipments rose 9.7 percent in December, but fell 4.9 percent for the year, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

December shipments surpassed 3.3 million units as 9 of the 12 appliance categories exceeded their year-ago levels, most of them doing so with double-digit increases.

Fourth-quarter shipments of 10.6 million units also surpassed year-ago levels, with three times as many product advances as declines.

Annual shipments, however, declined 2.2 million units from 1990's level to 43.4 million units.

While shipments for the first three quarters were negative compared to comparable periods one year earlier, gains in the fourth-quarter helped the industry achieve its 1991 forecast. In addition, these accomplishments should be noted:

- Shipments of core products remained relatively steady, declining only 0.2 percent. They include refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers -- the items that account for the bulk of dollar value for full-line appliance manufacturers.

(MORE)

- Refrigerators and dehumidifiers achieved record highs for their categories,
while clothes washers had their second-best year. In 1991, over 7.2
million refrigerators, 840,000 dehumidifiers, and nearly 6.2 million
clothes washers were shipped.

According to the industry forecast compiled in August, appliance shipments
in 1992 are expected to increase 3.0 percent to 44.7 million units.

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MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS
December, 1991

	DECEMBER			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE			CALENDAR QUARTER		
	1991	1990	% Change	1991	1990	% Change	1991	1990	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	3,357.3	3,059.1	9.7%	43,398.0	45,622.6	-4.9%	10,597.0	10,063.2	5.3%
COOKING - TOTAL	1,185.7	1,128.8	5.0%	12,852.2	13,861.6	-7.3%	3,849.8	3,838.1	0.3%
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	282.5	263.4	7.3%	3,308.8	3,444.2	-3.9%	896.3	867.5	3.3%
Free Standing	198.4	179.5	10.5%	2,331.9	2,357.6	-1.1%	632.5	597.7	5.8%
Built-In	49.3	48.0	2.7%	568.0	631.5	-10.1%	155.9	160.8	-3.0%
Surface Cooking Units	34.7	35.9	-3.3%	408.9	455.1	-10.2%	107.9	109.0	-1.0%
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	214.7	186.6	15.1%	2,400.6	2,428.7	-1.2%	688.4	623.0	10.5%
Free Standing	181.5	158.6	14.4%	2,040.6	2,060.8	-1.0%	587.6	534.5	9.9%
Built-In	8.7	8.6	1.2%	91.8	106.2	-13.6%	26.7	27.4	-2.6%
Surface Cooking Units	24.5	19.4	26.3%	268.2	261.6	2.5%	74.0	61.1	21.1%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	695.7	687.9	1.1%	7,234.0	8,126.3	-11.0%	2,288.8	2,379.0	-3.8%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	827.8	735.9	12.5%	10,509.9	10,512.1	-0.0%	2,696.2	2,447.0	10.2%
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	468.1	417.2	12.2%	6,196.8	6,192.1	0.1%	1,545.5	1,397.5	10.6%
DRYERS - TOTAL	359.7	318.7	12.9%	4,313.1	4,320.1	-0.2%	1,150.7	1,049.5	9.6%
Electric	268.7	241.1	11.4%	3,294.9	3,317.9	-0.7%	861.7	796.7	8.2%
Gas	91.0	77.6	17.3%	1,018.3	1,002.2	1.6%	289.0	252.8	14.3%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	645.6	550.5	17.3%	7,701.7	7,959.1	-3.2%	1,908.6	1,815.4	5.1%
DISPOSERS	338.3	262.0	29.1%	4,001.6	4,137.2	-3.3%	930.2	873.7	6.5%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	295.6	275.5	7.3%	3,570.8	3,636.8	-1.8%	943.7	900.0	4.9%
Built-In	274.3	254.4	7.8%	3,360.1	3,419.4	-1.7%	882.4	838.3	5.3%
Portable	21.2	21.1	0.5%	210.7	217.5	-3.1%	61.3	61.6	-0.5%
COMPACTORS	11.8	12.9	-8.5%	129.3	185.0	-30.1%	34.6	41.7	-17.0%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	617.5	550.7	12.1%	8,687.2	8,397.4	3.5%	2,002.4	1,833.4	9.2%
REFRIGERATORS	492.1	450.7	9.2%	7,273.1	7,101.3	2.4%	1,652.8	1,534.9	7.7%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	125.4	100.0	25.4%	1,414.1	1,296.0	9.1%	349.6	298.4	17.2%
Chest	73.4	56.3	30.4%	794.3	723.1	9.8%	200.7	160.9	24.7%
Upright	52.0	43.7	19.0%	619.8	572.9	8.2%	149.0	137.5	8.4%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	80.7	93.2	-13.4%	3,647.0	4,892.4	-25.5%	140.0	129.4	8.2%
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	76.1	81.7	-6.9%	2,807.0	4,149.9	-32.4%	129.2	94.4	36.9%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	4.6	11.6	-60.3%	840.0	742.5	13.1%	10.9	35.0	-68.9%

* Includes shipments for the U.S. market whether imported or domestically produced, and export shipments.

** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.

*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.



TRENDS AND FORECASTS
INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS OF MAJOR APPLIANCES*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS

PRODUCT	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992**	1993***
Cooking - Total	7,598	10,429	14,099	16,404	18,091	18,586	16,973	16,378	13,862	12,852	13,482	14,158
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	2,331	3,132	3,456	3,551	3,741	3,841	3,708	3,529	3,444	3,309	3,416	3,509
Free Standing	1,619	2,190	2,496	2,568	2,721	2,691	2,566	2,401	2,358	2,332	2,374	2,397
Built-In	417	563	577	574	598	655	635	648	632	568	602	648
Surface Cooking Units	295	378	382	409	423	495	506	480	455	409	440	464
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	1,368	1,573	1,732	1,814	2,090	2,319	2,457	2,414	2,429	2,401	2,385	2,460
Free-Standing#	1,289	1,477	1,626	1,694	1,826	2,022	2,101	2,055	2,061	2,041	2,025	2,081
Built-In#	79	96	106	120	114	120	127	112	106	92	102	106
Surface Cooking Units		Data not available			150	176	230	247	262	268	258	273
MICROWAVE OVEN/RANGES	4,071	5,933	9,132	10,883	12,444	12,610	10,988	10,598	8,126	7,234	7,806	8,327
Home Laundry - Total	6,746	7,910	8,733	9,192	10,009	10,635	10,791	10,825	10,512	10,510	10,642	10,737
WASHERS - TOTAL	4,019	4,616	5,049	5,279	5,765	5,998	6,190	6,252	6,192	6,197	6,273	6,314
Automatic	3,955	4,546	5,049	5,279	5,765	5,998	6,190	6,252	6,192	6,197	6,273	6,314
Wringer & Other	64	69	Series discontinued									
DRYERS - TOTAL	2,727	3,294	3,684	3,914	4,245	4,637	4,601	4,574	4,320	4,313	4,370	4,423
Electric	2,143	2,622	2,931	3,080	3,309	3,600	3,554	3,522	3,318	3,295	3,354	3,406
Gas	584	672	754	834	936	1,037	1,047	1,052	1,002	1,018	1,016	1,017
Kitchen Clean Up - Total	5,098	6,822	7,758	7,858	8,381	8,696	8,383	8,244	7,959	7,702	7,938	8,344
DISPOSERS	2,780	3,544	4,085	4,105	4,269	4,438	4,233	4,363	4,137	4,002	4,118	4,309
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	2,170	3,121	3,491	3,575	3,918	4,032	3,907	3,668	3,637	3,571	3,655	3,850
Built-In	1,956	2,859	3,245	3,327	3,663	3,763	3,647	3,456	3,419	3,360	3,439	3,641
Portable	214	262	246	248	255	269	260	213	218	211	216	210
COMPACTORS	148	157	182	177	194	226	243	213	185	129	166	185
Food Preservation - Total	5,704	6,818	7,275	7,316	7,733	8,232	8,576	8,317	8,397	8,687	8,498	8,647
REFRIGERATORS##	4,364	5,477	5,994	6,081	6,510	6,972	7,227	7,099	7,101	7,275	7,188	7,377
FREEZERS - TOTAL	1,340	1,341	1,281	1,236	1,222	1,260	1,349	1,219	1,296	1,414	1,310	1,270
Chest	726	702	650	634	661	692	727	677	723	794	733	695
Upright	614	639	631	602	561	567	622	541	573	620	577	576
Home Comfort - Total	3,201	2,439	3,694	3,610	3,371	4,503	5,310	5,696	4,892	3,647	4,152	4,650
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	2,761	2,002	3,103	3,022	2,816	3,798	4,637	5,091	4,150	2,807	3,402	3,950
DEHUMIDIFIERS	440	437	591	588	555	704	673	605	743	840	750	700
All Major Appliances	28,346	34,417	41,558	44,020	47,585	50,652	50,033	49,461	45,623	43,398	44,713	46,535

* Includes shipments for the U.S. market whether imported or domestically produced, and export shipments.

** Forecasts as of August, 1991.

*** Forecasts as of May, 1991.

Drop-in gas range data included in free-standing total for 1982 through 1984; thereafter drop-in gas range data included in built-in total.

Includes units of 6.5 cu. ft. and over.

Total industry shipments may not add due to rounding and overlapping categories.